

the number of out of school children has halved from 25 million in 2002 to 13.5 million in 2005. The nation-wide sample survey was commissioned by the Government of India under the Sarva Siksha Abhiyan Programme.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) Education scenario of the country is reflected in the Annual Report of the Ministry which is presented every year in the Parliament. This is also available in the public domain through the Ministry's website.

Review of NCERT books

†1230. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the progress of the committee constituted for the review of NCERT books as on date; and

(b) the time frame fixed for the committee to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) The committee to review some Hindi text books published by NCERT was constituted on 30.08.2006. Two month's time was given to the Committee to submit its report. The Committee submitted its report on 20.10.2006.

Reservation of seats for SCs, STs and OBC's

1231. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision has been made to reserve seats for SCs, STs, and OBCs in higher and technical institutions, including private ones;

(b) whether it has been proposed to exclude creamy layer from reservation; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.